Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 106197

43

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R 071532Z MAY 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 106197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, CS

SUBJECT: EX-IM BANK FINANCING FOR PROJECTS IN COSTA RICA

REF: SAN JOSE 01344

- 1. THROUGH INFORMAL INQUIRIES AND REFERENCED CABLE, EXIM BANK IS AWARE OF POTENTIAL FINANCING REQUESTS FROM THE GOCR THAT MAY TOTAL 200 MILLION DOLLARS. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES FINANCING FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, A CEMENT PLANT, A JET AIRCRAFT FOR THE NATIONAL AIRLINE, AND AS YET UNIDENTIFIED EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED BY THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION COUNCIL.
- 2. IN LIGHT OF PAST RESCHEDULINGS OF EXIM BANK CREDITS TO GOCR FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION, THE COUNTRY'S POOR EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT PERFORMANCE, AND THE RELATIVELY SMALL SIZE AND ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY, EXIM BANK HAS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 106197

ADOPTED A CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD INCREASES IN ITS PRESENT 57 MILLION DOLLARS EXPOSURE IN COSTA RICA. EXIM BANK WOULD PREFER THAT ADDITIONAL EXPOSURE ON LARGE TRANSACTIONS SHOULD GENERALLY BE LIMITED TO SELF-LIQUIDATING, FOREIGN

EXCHANGE EARNING TRANSACTIONS.

- 3. PRESENT AND CONTEMPLATED DEVELOPMENT LOANS FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ON THE ORDER OF 60-80 MILLION DOLLARS FOR ROADS, AS DETAILED IN THE CEPCIES REVIEW DOCUMENT ON COSTA RICA, SHOULD MEET THE GOCR'S NEEDS IN THIS FIELD AND BE PREFERRED TO EXIM BANK SINCE THEY COULD PROVIDE MORE FAVORABLE TERMS.
- 4. EXIM BANK HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT A LARGE CEMENT PLANT, THE COST OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND RANGES FROM 20 TO 80 MILLION DOLLARS. FYI, THE OFFICIAL GERMAN EXPORT CREDIT AGENCY, INFORMED EXIM BANK ON MARCH 10, 1975 THAT IT DECLINED TO SUPPORT THE SALE OF GERMAN EQUIPMENT FOR A 50 MILLION DOLLAR CEMEMT PLANT.
- 5. EXIM BANK CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM INSURANCE AND GUARANTEES FOR TRANSACTIONS OF MODERATE AMOUNTS. MOREOVER, ADDITIONAL EXPOSURE WILL LIKELY BE INCURRED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE FINANCING FACILITY. THESE PROGRAMS APPEAR TO BE APPROPRIATE TO THE NEEDS OF COSTA RICAN IMPORTERS.
- 6. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S INFORMING EXIM BANK OF EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND WISH TO ASSURE EMBASSY THAT EXIM BANK WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO APPROPRIATE TRANSACTIONS WITHIN LIMITATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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